



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2003

For Information Contact Public Affairs
HARRIET BERNICK
Telephone: (602) 514-7736
Pager: (602) 356-0004

TUCSON MAN INDICTED FOR LYING TO INVESTIGATOR IN THE “ASPEN FIRE” INVESTIGATION

TUCSON, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that a federal grand jury at Tucson, Arizona returned a three count indictment against Kenzo Butler (DOB 4/30/81), of Tucson, Arizona. The indictment alleges Kenzo Butler provided false statements to United States Forest Services Investigators who were investigating the origin of the “Aspen Fire” that began on Mt. Lemmon on June 17, 2003. The fire destroyed approximately 335 structures (homes) and over 80,000 acres of timberland. The federal indictment charges Kenzo Butler with three counts of 18 U.S.C. 1001(a)(2). If convicted of providing false statements the defendant faces a fine of up to \$250,000 and up to five years in prison per count.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilty. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that established guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation that led to the complaint was conducted by Special Agents of the United States Forest Service, the Pima County Sheriff's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution is being handled by James T. Lacey, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-5043M

RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-197